

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8081

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PE, CO

SUBJECT: ATTACKS ON SIL CONTINUE

REF: BOGOTA 11230

1. DURING PARALLEL ASSEMBLIES WHICH BEGUN LAST WEEK, NATIONAL AGRARIAN CONFEDERATION (CNA) AND FLEDGLING NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARTISTS (ANTA), CITING VARIOUS FALSE AND RIDICULOUS CHARGES, DEMANDED IMMEDIATE OUSTER FROM PERU OF SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS.

2. CNA SCORED SIL AND OTHER (UNNAMED) RELIGIOUS GROUPS FOR EXPLOITING INDIGENOUS TRIBES AND CAUSING CULTURAL ALIENATION. ANTA ACCUSED SIL OF EXPLOITING NATIVE ARTISANS, PERFORMING EXPERIMENTS IN BIRTH CONTROL ON SHIPIBO WOMEN, ABUSING CHILDREN, AND MOUNTING "NIGHT OPERATIONS" TO EXTRACT BLACK PEARLS FROM THE BOTTOM OF LAKE YARINACocha. (SIC)

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THE LEFT HAS LAUNCHED A COORDINATED PROPAGANDA ASSAULT AIMED AT PREVENTING SIL FROM RENEWING ITS CONTRACT WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN FEBRUARY. ALTHOUGH GOP OFFICIALS HAVE ASSURED US THEY SEE NO SUBSTANCE TO ALLEGATIONS, WE BELIEVE THEY MIGHT FIND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN PERSPECTIVE SHOULD LEFTIST PRESS CAMPAIGN

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CONTINUE. THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL CULTURAL INSTITUTE (INC),

MARTHA HILDERBRANDT, SEEMS TO BE AN EXAMPLE OF ONE INFLUENCED BY PRESS CAMPAIGN IN WHICH SHE HAS BECOME EMBROILED. HILDERBRANDT, A LEFTIST INTELLECTUAL, WORKED WITH SIL PEOPLE FOR YEARS AND IN PART HAS PUBLICLY PRAISED THEM. HOWEVER, SHE RECENTLY TOLD US THAT SIL IS AN OUTMODED ORGANIZATION WHOSE TASKS MIGHT BE BETTER PERFORMED BY PERUVIANS WHO WOULD BETTER RESPECT NATIVE CULTURES.

4. AMBASSADOR AND AID DIRECTOR TALKED WITH THE DIRECTOR SUPERIOR (COL. MORALES BERMUDEZ) AND THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. BOTH SAID THAT THEY HAD VISITED YARINACocha AND HAD OBSERVED FIRST-HAND THE LAUDABLE EDUCATIONAL WORK CARRIED OUT BY SIL. MORALES BERMUDEZ SAID THAT THE GOP WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE THESE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, THERE WAS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN GOP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SIL ACTIVITIES. MORALES BERMUDEZ FLATLY DECLARED THAT THOSE WHO CRITICIZE SIL FOR CULTURAL ALIENATION ARE WRONG AND ENGAGING IN DEMAGOGUERY. HE SAID THAT HE TELLS THEM THEIR CRITISMS ARE WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION. FINALLY MORALES BERMUDEZ SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION STUDY OF SIL ACTIVITIES IS CONTINUING.

5. FOR BOGOTA: AS NEWS STORIES IN PERUVIAN PRESS ABOUT SIL STATUS IN COLOMBIA ARE AT BEST DISTORTED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE UPDATE, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS PROSPECTS FOR CONTRACT RENEWAL. SIL HERE AND REFTel INDICATE STORIES ABOUT EXPULSION FROM COLOMBIA ARE WRONG, BUT WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT CONTINUED SIL PRESENCE IN COLOMBIA CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.
DEAN

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